

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER

ISSN-2321-7065

IJELLH

**International Journal of English Language,
Literature in Humanities**

Indexed, Peer Reviewed (Refereed), UGC Approved Journal



Volume 7, Issue 2, February 2019

www.ijellh.com

Dr. A. Saburunnisa,
Research Advisor, Asst. Professor of English,
PG and Research Department of English,
Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College For Women (Autonomous),
Thanjavur , Tamil Nadu, India

S. Manjula
Research Scholar,
PG and Research Department of English,
KunthavaiNaacchiyaar Government Arts College For Women (Autonomous),
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India
rmanjuraja@gmail.com

Anitha Nair – A Critical Review Of Her Life, Nature Of Her Writings And Findings

Abstract: Anita Nair is an Indian bestselling author of fiction and poetry, with her famous novels *The Better man* and *Ladies Coupe* translated into 21 languages. A well known renowned author born in Kerala and raised in Chennai had always affinity towards writing and the courage to pursue it under all the courage to pursue it under all the situations. In all her works she gives importance to the characters of women and their sufferings, motives etc. this presents paper attempts to describe the role and career of Anita Nair her style and techniques used in her writings.

Key Words: Women, style, narrative techniques.

Introduction

Women have been the nodal point of several literary writings in Post - Colonial India. Literature has reflected the changing life styles of the Indian Women placed in the traditional,cultural backdrop of the Indian Society. Women in Indian fiction have been treated both as symbols of retreat personal regression and self – pity as well as symbols of growth, purity and development in the urban and rural milieu.

Life Of Anitha Nair

Anitha Nair (born 26 January 1966) is an Indian English Language writer. Nair was born in Shornur in Palakkad district of Kerala. Nair was educated in Chennai before returning to kerala, where she gained a BA in English language and literature. She lives in Bangalore with her husband, Suresh Parambath and a son.

Career Of Anitha Nair

Nair was working as the creative director of an advertising agency in Bangalore when she wrote her first book, a collection of short stories calles Satyr of the Subway, which she sold to Har – AnandPerss. The book won her a fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Nair's Second book was published by Penguin India, and was the first book by an Indian Author to be published by Picador USA. A bestselling author of fiction and poetry, Nair's novels The Better Man and Ladies Coupe have been translated into 21 languages.

Among Nair's early commercial works were pieces, She penned in the late 90's for The Bangalore Monthly Magazine (Now called "080" Magazine) publishes Explocity in a column titled "The Economical Epicurean" , following the novels, Nair also published the collection

of poems in 2002 with entitled “Malabar Mind” and in 2003 with entitled “Where the Rain is Born – Writings about Kerala Which she has edited”.

Nair’s second novel “Ladies Coupe” turned to be great success from outside India, from the United states to Turkey, from Poland to Portugal. In 2002, “Ladies Coupe” was elected as one of the five best in India. The novel is about women’s conditions in a male dominated society told with great insight, solidarity and humor. Ladies Coupe was rated as one of top five books of the year and was translated into more than twenty five languages around the world.

Nair has also written The Puffin Book of Myths and Legands (2004), a children’s book on myths and legends. Nair has also edited Where the Rain is Born (2003). Nair’s writings about Kerala and her poetry has been included in the poetry India collection and a British Council poetry workshop Anthology. Nair has also written a few other books, such as Mistress (2003), Adventures of Nonu, The Skating Squirrel (2006), Living Next Door to Alise (2007) and Magical Indian Myths (2008). Nair’s works also imclude many travelogues with the play nine faces of Being , best – selling author of Anita Nair has become a playwright. The story is adapted from Nair’s book Mistress. Her Book Cut Like Wound (2012) introduced the fictional character Inspector Gowda. The second book in the series Chain of Custody was published in 2015. Other works by Nair include The Lilac House(2012) and Alphabet Soup for hovers (2016) Her sixth novel Idris : Keeper of the Light (2014) is a historical and geographical novel about a Somalian trader who visted Malabar in 1659 AD.

Style and Techniques Of Anitha Nair:

Anita Nair mirrors the society in her literary endeavours. Her writingsdelve deep into the contemporary obnoxious condition of human beings. Sheexplores the colossal proviso of human experiences and expresses them with fullflow of her emotions. In addition, her works are a mixture of realism as found inIndian culture with universal appeal. As a novelist, her

spirit lies in ushering the everyday reality in her writings. English is the language that stirs the imagination of Anita Nair. As apostcolonial novelist, Anita Nair has chosen English as a medium to communicate her ideas to the readers. Her mastery over English language reverberates in her usage of words in her works. In her writings she expresses her concern for Indian English literature. She highlights the fact that Indian English writers are accepted in other countries but in India the position is pathetic.

Anita Nair's love for Kerala is echoed in her writings. While narrating the geographical condition of Kerala, Anita Nair calls Kerala as "God's own city". She points out that the principle "make do" ("Introduction" vii) is adhered by the Keralites in shaping their lives. The principle "make do" (Nair, "Introduction" vii) turns the trodden path of Kerala into a well-trodden path with centum level. Ayurveda and the flora and fauna make Kerala meaningful. Traditionally Kerala includes drums and Kathakali along with religious rituals and the overall secularism. Kerala shapes Anita Nair's identity and paves way to create a new alternative world. Anita Nair's way of describing nature in her novels reveals the truth about her rootedness in Kerala. It is a place that stands with a stupendous mixture of people with different cultures. In her writings Anita Nair highlights the environment, the people and the life of Kerala. Even though she was born in Shoranur, her closeness to the ancestral village Mundakotturissi is found in her writings. Further Anita Nair describes the green of Kerala thus: "Nowhere else in the world have I seen so many hues of green. The velvety green of the moss on the wall. The deep green of the hibiscus bush. The dappled green of the jackfruit. The jade green of the paddy . . . Leaves. Parakeet's wings . . ." (Nair, "Introduction" vii). These conceptions are revealed in her writings. Indeed Anita Nair is known for her intellectual dynamism in the literary field. Besides her astuteness, she is honest in bringing out the realities of the society in her writings. Anita Nair vividly portrays the mental sufferings of her characters. She has confessed that what she has read and seen inspires her writings.

Being a creative and dynamic researcher, she is unique in presenting thefacts and discoveries in her novels. Before writing *The Better Man*, Anita Nairread a lot about herbs. Significantly, in the novel she highlights the medicinalvalues of the asoka tree. Anita Nair read B.Sc. Chemistry text books to build thecharacter of Margaret Shanthi. The author's intellect lies in her analysis of thecharacters with chemical names such as bromine, lithium, cobalt, nitrous oxide, arsenic and tetrasulphur tetramide.Anita Nair's writings triumph over the faith related conceptions.Moreover the ideas of different religions pervade the novels of Anita Nair.Ideologically Anita Nair says, “. . . Human fragility is easier to endure thanhuman priggishness” (Nair, “Malabar Mind” 39). Being secular in her ideas,Anita Nair quotes the characters and phrases from the *Bible*, the *Koran* and the*Mahabharata* in her writings. As a matter of fact, she is well versed in variousreligious concepts and themes. Especially *Mistress* is a hybrid of three religions.

As one of India’s remarkable female writers, Anita Nair mainly focuseson the problems of women in her novels. Mainly her novels speak of the painsand struggles of women in Indian society. Of course when the novel *LadiesCoupe* was published, every one asked her the question “Are you a feministauthor?”, She replied “It is a book of stories about women and how a womanmakes her own place in the society. It is a book about the human condition”(Nair, “Malabar Mind” 45). Until 1998 there was a special counter for ladies,senior citizens and handicapped persons in the Bangalore Cantonment railwaystation. Being a woman, Anita Nair felt disturbed and wrote to the authorities concerned and later the separate ladies queue was abolished in all the railwaystations. On the day, when Womens Reservation Bill was passed, ensuring 33percent on March 9, 2010, Anita Nair felt jubilant and said, “. . . the voice of women acquired a whole new stridency. By the women. For the women. Of thewomen” (Nair, “The She Factor” Para 5).However Indian women are super women in managing their routines. Anita

Nairas a woman writer displays an interest and commitment to balance a literary lifewith family life.

Notably Anita Nair as a writer of book reviews explores the salientfeatures of the book and the author. She lists out not only the merits of the bookbut also its demerits. As an intense investigator, she delves deep into the pages ofthe book and critically examines the plot, characters, settings and style of thebook. In her reviews she scrutinizes varied issues like those concerning thepsychology of women, everyday life of Sri Lanka, about extraordinary minorcharacters, trespassers, Indian history, lunch at Indian restaurants, married women, western reader's imagination, the anthropological study of customs andmanners, social commentaries, the author's aversion to proper nouns, wearingsarees, and about the book's dust jacket.

The writings of Anita Nair in different genres imitate the realities andincidents of the daily happenings of the society. Her books are famous across theworld. With wide and awesome ideas in her works, Anita Nair presents a thematic innovation and experimentation in her novels. Being one of the leadingwriters, Anita Nair is proactive and creative in progressing and developing theideas in her writings.

Anita Nair in her debut novel reveals woman's capacity to assert her own rights and individuality in marriage and develop into fully fledged women of prospective as a human being. Anita Nair has presented in her novels, modern Indian women's search for revival of relationships that are central to women. Her own struggle as a writer is equally symptomatic of the resistance to feminist expression that prevails in India in the middle of the twentieth century. As a woman writer her dilemma was either to give voice to women's concern and be branded as a women writer: removed from the mainstream of literary scene; or to deny her feminist and write like a man either with male name or male narrative voice. Anita Nair reveals that her concern is with the exploration of human psyche. She explores the emotional ecology of her

protagonists. Anita Nair has portrayed some of her protagonist as economically independent women but still they don't have control over their own life even major decisions of their life have been taken by others, she has very clearly brought this concept in light that women in modern Indian may be educated and financially independent but still the rope of their life is in the hands of others. Anita Nair depicts carefully the diversity within each woman, as she did not want to put the lives of women to one ideal. The women living in such an orthodox society became so habitual to their surrounding and age old philosophy that they too were thinking that the marriage is their destiny and their husbands are their masters. Their duty is to obey him and serve him and his family. The writer focuses primarily on the psychological exploration of inner mind of Indian women in Indian novels in English. Anita Nair being woman penetrates deep into the inner mind of the depressed women by virtue of her feminine sensibility and psychological insight and brings to light their issues which are the outcome of Indian women's psychological and emotional imbalances in a male dominated society. Therefore, Male dominated society and its anti-woman ideology is the root cause of women's backwardness and their suffering and victimization.

Anita Nair's novel expresses the need of emancipation and education of Indian women and hence its reformist objective is fore-grounded in her novels. Anita Nair's women characters in her novels rebel against patriarchal community in order to explore their own terms, regardless of the consequences that such a rebellion may have on their lives they take the position of "outsiders" to fight and also projected her Indian sensibility and attitude through her women characters in her novels. Most of the Indian women living in an orthodox and conservative family feel inhibited to raise their voice against aggressive dominance of the male person of the society owing to their inferiority complex and rigid code of conduct imposed on their ambitions, desires, sense and sensibilities are faithfully expressed in Nair's Novels. In fact, in Nair's writing, the restructuring of male-female relationship that can bring changes in

social and interpersonal attitudes becomes the most important basis of female emancipation. In this context, Anita Nair's novels make an interesting reading because of their contemporaries. Nair's novels are grounded in South Indian reality its inherent complexities and value systems.

Conclusion

Feminism defines patriarchy as an unjust social system that is necessarily more oppressive to women. In male dominated society is supposed to be an ideal wife, a mother and an excellent home-maker with multifarious roles to play in the family. Her required attributes are to sacrifice, submissiveness and tolerance. She makes in her life faithfully and obediently through her excessive endurance service of adjustments are main admired qualities of women. Her individual self has very little recognition in the patriarchal society and so self-effacement becomes her normal way of life.

In short, this living writer is a multi faceted one whose personal interests and experiences add spice to her writings. She is primarily a postcolonial writer, and hence it is pertinent to highlight certain features of postcolonialism found in her works with special reference to self-actualization. Anita Nair is significant in the Indian literary scenario with a universal appeal

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